

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 SCCT-01 AID-05

SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 /068 W

----- 083374

O 271241Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8783

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAR ES SALAAM 2308

ADDIS ABABA PASS ASST SECTY DAVIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC (SMUTS, BARBARA)(SMITH, KENNETH STEPHEN)

(HUNTER, CARRIE JANE)

SUBJ: KIDNAPPED AMERICANS: AP AND UPI PRESS REPORTS

REF: DAR ES SALAAM 2276

1. INFORMATION RECEIVED FROM CBS CORRESPONDENT JIM PRITCHETT UPON RETURN FROM KIGOMA HAS PLACED DIFFERENT LIGHT ON EVENTS RELATED PARA 6 REFTEL. FURTHER PRITCHETT HAS MADE CONVINCING CASE TO USIS OFFICERS THAT HE DID NOT RPT NOT PASS HIMSELF OFF AS U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIAL WHEN CHARTERING AIRCRAFT. ON CONTRARY PRITCHETT SAYS HE CLEARLY IDENTIFIED HIMSELF AS JOURNALIST ON ASSIGNMENT FOR CBS TO COVER KIDNAPPING STORY, AND THAT HE WOULD NEVER JEOPARDIZE HIS PROFESSIONAL STANDING AS REPUTABLE JOURNALIST BY OPERATING UNDER ANY SUBTERFUGE.

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2. SEQUENCE EVENTS APPARENTLY AS FOLLOWS: ABOUT 9 P.M. LOCAL TIME WEDNESDAY CBS NEW YORK PHONED PRITCHETT AT HOTEL ORDERING HIM AND CAMERAMAN TO KIGOMA TO BE ON HAND TO FILM ANTICIPATED ARRIVAL STUDENTS. PRITCHETT ARRANGED CHARTER WITH PERSON ON DUTY IN TANZANAIR CHARTER SERVICE OFFICE IN HOTEL LOBBY, WHO SCHEDULED DAWN TAKEOFF. PRITCHETT TRIED CALL PAO THAT EVENING TO INFORM HIM OF TRIP BUT WAS UNABLE REACH HIM. PLANE THEN TOOK OFF EARLY THURSDAY MORNING. MEANWHILE TANZANAIR MANAGER ARRIVED AT OFFICE TO LEARN OF FLIGHT, AND DISCOVERED PILOT HAD NOT SECURED CLEARANCE NOR HAD HE LEFT PASSENGER MANIFEST. MANAGER CALLED EMBASSY AND IMPLIED THAT TWO PASSENGERS ASSOCIATING THEMSELVES WITH EMBASSY OR USIS HAD CHARTERED AN AIRCRAFT AND ASKED IF THIS WAS SO. EMBOFF SAID NO AND REFERRED MANGER TO USIS. IO TOLD MANAGER PLANE NOT CHARTERED BY USIS AND UPON FURTHER DISCUSSION SURMISED PASSENGERS MIGHT BE CBS CREW AND THEN GAVE NAMES TO MANAGER. MANAGER SAID WHILE HE IN PAST HAD SENT PLANES OFF BEFORE OBTAINING PROPER CLEARANCES IN CASES EMBASSY CHARTERS, PILOT "WAS REMISS" IN THIS CASE AND ASKED WHAT HE SHOULD DO. IO REPLIED THAT THAT UP TO HIM, BUT PRESUMED HE WOULD SEEK CLEARANCE. IO REPORTED THE EXCHANGE TO EMBOFFS AND SUGGESTED EMBOFF IN KIGOMA SHOULD BE INFORMED PRESS ON THE WAY.

3. ON ARRIVAL KIGOMA PRITCHETT SAID PLANE MET BY POLICE WHO TOOK THEM TO POLICE STATION AND TOLD THEM THAT BECAUSE THEY HAD FALSELY PASSED THEMSELVES OFF AS U.S. EMBASSY OFFICIALS THEY WERE BEING SENT BACK TO DAR IMMEDIATELY, UNLESS THEY PREFERRED STAY IN JAIL.

4. COMMENT: JUDGING FROM SEQUENCE EVENTS AND FORMER EXPERIENCE WITH PRITCHETT, UIS OFFICES HAVE NO REASON DOUBT HIS WORD, AND BELIEVE IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT HE GAVE TANZANAIR FALSE IMPRESSION. WE BELIEVE IT VERY POSSIBLE TANZANAIR MANAGER BLEW HIS COOL UPON ARRIVING AT OFFICE AND DISCOVERING FLIGHT HAD TAKEN OFF WITHOUT LEAVING MANIFEST OR OBTAINING CLEARANCE, AND WAS TRYING COVER THE ERROR. AT ANY RATE, PRITCHETT SEEMS MOLIFIED BY DESCRIPTION MISSION ACTIONS AS RELATED ABOVE, AND HAS BEEN ADVISED BY USIS TO CHECK IN WITH PROPER AUTHORITIES IN TANZANIAN INFORMATION SERVICE. WE DO NOT KNOW IF HE AND CAMERAMAN PLAN TRY AGAIN, OR IF TANZANIAN OFFICIALS WOULD ALLOW THEM IN KIGOMA.

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CARTER

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